AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1(Currently Amended). A synthetic antisense oligonucleotide compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length comprising at least one modified nucleobase, and targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding human stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SEQ ID NO: 3), wherein said ~~compound~~ antisense oligonucleotide specifically hybridizes with a nucleic acid molecule encoding human stearoyl-CoA desaturase and inhibits the expression of human stearoyl-CoA desaturase by at least 10%.

Claims 2-3(CANCELED).

4 (Currently Amended). The compound of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

5 (Original). The compound of claim 4 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

6 (Currently Amended). The compound of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

7 (Original). The compound of claim 6 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

8 (CANCELED).

9 (Currently Amended). The compound of claim ~~8~~ 1 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

10(Currently Amended). The compound of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

11(CANCELED).

12(Original). A composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

13(Original). The composition of claim 12 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

14(Original). The composition of claim 12 wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.

15(Currently Amended). A method of inhibiting the expression of human stearoyl-CoA desaturase in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues *in vitro* with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of human stearoyl-CoA desaturase is inhibited.

Claims 16-20 (CANCELED).

21(New). The compound of claim 1, wherein said oligonucleotide is more than 30 nucleobases in length.